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Folk Art Objects Compton Verney



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 Some artworks cannot be photographed.

SHOWCASE

1. *Policeman Whirligig.*

Wood, painted, early 1800s. H: 33 cm

The term 'whirligig' comes from 'gig' meaning a whipping top, and can be used to describe any spinning or whirling toy.



2. *Candleholder.*

Wood, painted, mid 1800s. H: 35cm

This is modelled with two figures in servants' clothes, supporting the candle with a yoke on their shoulders. They sit on a carriage with rough-hewn wheels.

3. *Recumbent Doe, Staffordshire Pottery, England, probably 1775-1850.* H: 11.9 cm



4. *Reclining Sheep, Staffordshire Pottery, England, 1850-1900.* H: 7.8 cm

5. *Dog, Staffordshire Pottery, England, about 1850.* H: 39.8 cm



6. *Beakers (four), British. Horn, 1800-1850.*

All approx. H: 10 cm

The decoration was made by scratching a hot needle into the horn. Beakers of this kind were cheap, light, and washable, their translucency highlighting the decoration.

7. Pig, Wemyss Ware, Scotland, early 1900s.

H: 28.2 cm

Wemyss pottery was first produced in Kirkcaldy in 1882.



8. Sheep with Tree, Staffordshire Pottery, England, 1850-1900. H: 19.4 cm

9. Bull with a Tree, Staffordshire Pottery, England, probably 1750-1800. H: 19.9 cm



10. Sailor Whirligig. Wood, metal arms, painted, early 1900s. H: 44 cm

11 & 12. Two Boxers, Staffordshire Pottery, England. Earthenware, about 1815.

Both: 22 x 11.5 cm

Thomas Cribb, boxing champion of England in the early 1800s, and Thomas Molineaux, a black American boxer, fought each other on 28th September 1811. The fight went to eleven rounds. Cribb won, leaving Molineaux with a broken jaw.



13. Pony and Trap Whirligig, British. Wood with metal parts, about 1900.

H: 51.8 cm

As the propeller turned in the wind, the horse's legs moved as if trotting. A small hammer between the driver's feet clattered to simulate the sound of the horse's hooves.

AROUND WALLS

14. Swan Inn Sign, British. Wood, 1700-1750. H: 101.3 cm



15. Boar's Head Inn Sign, British. Pine, 1800-1900. H: 90.7 cm

16. West Country Winged Highback Settle. Pine, early 1800s. 153 x 180.5 x 43 cm



17. Butcher's Block. Ash, early 1800s. H: 62 cm

18. Military Patchwork, British, between 1854 and 1876. H: 254.5 cm

This patchwork was made for the 98th Regiment, indicated by the regiment's colours and XCVIII inscribed on the Union flag in the centre. In 1881, the 98th was amalgamated with the 64th Regiment to form The Prince of Wales's North Staffordshire Regiment. Made with various scraps of military material, the patchwork may have been produced by convalescing soldiers at a field hospital. The initials 'V.R.' (Victoria Regina) and the crown honour the reigning monarch. The two central flags are the regimental colours, below which are stitched two crossed rifles, a badge that was awarded to the best shot in the regiment.



HOME TABLE



19. Dug-out Seat, Scandinavia. Birch, 1800-1900. H: 78 cm
Known as a 'tree-trunk' chair.

20. Ladle, Welsh.

Varnished wood, 1800s. H: 75 cm



21. Chestnut Roaster, British.

Iron and wood, 1850-1900. H: 9.1 cm

Chestnuts were roasted in the drum-shaped container, the lid of which was released by turning the screw half-way down the handle.

22. Man with a Pipe Weathervane, British.

Metal, 1800s. H: 46 cm



23. Footstool, probably Scandinavian.
Pine and birch, 1800-1900. H: 12 cm

24. Rectangular Four-Legged Stool, West Country, England. Painted ash, 1800s.

H: 34.8 cm



25. Child's Commode Chair, British.

Wood, 1800-1850. H: 59 cm

This green-painted child's commode opens at the front and is shaped to allow room for the child's legs.

26. Carved Spoon. English, Beech, about 1800,
H. 20cm

This small spoon has a handle which was carved in the shape of a miniature longcase clock. It has small areas of polychrome decoration which simulate the inlay you would expect to find on a full-size longcase clock. There are various historical references to small carved objects such as spoons being given as romantic gifts, and these often had symbols which were meaningful to the couple incorporated into the design. In *Treen and Other Wooden Bygones*, E.H. Pinto describes a Victorian practice of couples being given a small wooden pair of shoes connected by a chain: "It was formerly a charming marriage custom to carve and give them to the bride and groom, with a knob of coal in one ... and sugar in the other, to ensure that the couple never lacked warmth and sweetness or sustenance."



27. Man with House Weathervane, British.

Metal, 1800-1900.

H: 54 cm

28. Vase by J. Seard, French.

Pewter, date unknown. H: 17.5 cm

An inscription on the base reveals that this vase was made by J. Seard's pewter firm, Étain d'Art, in Abbeville, France.



29. Three-legged Dog Toasting Fork, British.

Wood and iron, 1750-1850.

H: 48 cm

30. *Fire Bellows*, maker unknown, English.
Metal and mahogany, about 1800. H: 14 cm



31. *Hand Weathervane*, British.
Pine, about 1900. H: 16 cm

32. *Bargeware-style Painted Jug*, originally from America. Galvanised iron, 1925-1950. H: 32.2 cm

This jug was originally a galvanised four-quart oil can from America. It was later painted in the style of bargeware, with stylised foliage on a black background.



33. *Windsor Chair*, Irish. Ash, 1800-1900. H: 66.5 cm

WORK TABLE



34. *Tub*, British. Wood and iron, about 1890. H: 27.2 cm

35. *Coffee Shop Sign (coffee pot)*, Northern Europe. Brass, 1850-1900. H: 46 cm



36. *Cockerel Weathervane*, British.



Zinc and iron, 1800-1850. H: 60 cm

One of the earliest and most enduring of weathervane shapes, the cockerel is symbolic of St. Peter's betrayal of Jesus 'before the cock crowed'.

37. *Truncheon*, British. Ash heightened with gilt, 1910-1936. H: 50.3 cm

This truncheon was made during the reign of George V, evidenced by the monarch's initials 'G.R.' and a Royal crown.



38. *Turnscrew*, British. Wrought iron, brass and beech, 1900-1950. H: 114 cm



Long screwdrivers, or turnscrews, were made for specific tasks so that the user could extend their reach. Others were produced as display items in order to demonstrate a manufacturer's skills.

39. *Ditcher's Shovel*, British. Wood, leather and wrought iron, 1850-1900. H: 14.3 cm



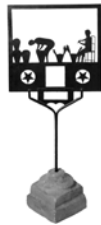
40. *Rick Knife*, Isaac Nash, English. Wrought iron and wood, about 1900. H: 60.1 cm

41. *Pointer Dog Weathervane*, British. Metal, 1850-1950. H: 127 cm



42. *Sheep-shearer's Bench and Sheep Shears*, British. Oak, pine and iron, 1850-1900. H: 31.2 cm

43. *Basket Weaver's Sign*, British. Metal and stone, after 1900. H: 82.1 cm



44. *Hay Knife*, British. Wood and wrought iron, about 1900. H: 8.4 cm



45. *Flax Breaker*, British. Beech wood, 1850-1900. H: 56.5 cm



46 & 47. *Pair of Whistling Partridge Decoys*, probably British. Tôle peinte (painted metal sheet), between 1850-1900. Both H: 24 cm
Each of these decoys, with its detailed plumage, has an opening in its throat through which the wind would blow, producing a sound similar to the whistling of a partridge.

LEISURE TABLE

48. *Pull-along Toy Bull*, British.

Wood and metal, about 1900. H: 38.5 cm

Pull-along or push-along animals on wheels were very popular in the period before 1900, as is confirmed by the number of portraits in which children are depicted with them.



49. *Seated Dog Weathervane*, British. Iron, about 1880. H: 62 cm

50. *Soldier Whirligig*, British. Polychrome pine and metal, early 1900s. H: 62 cm



51. *Butcher's Shop Counter Sign*, Northern Europe. Papier-mâché, after 1900. H: 38.5 cm



52. *Fairground Carousel Pig*, British.

Cast iron, about 1850-1900. H: 79 cm

This pig was one of the rides on a fairground carousel, possibly one of a number of farm animals. With the rise of steam power, merry-go-rounds became more common and included not only farm animals but also exotic creatures and decorated horses.



53. *Hare and Hounds*, English School. Oil on tin, about 1860.

Size of tray: 54.8 x 70.8 cm

54. *Lion Weathervane*, British. Metal, 1900-1950. H: 42.8 cm





55. Floating Goose Decoy, British.
Pine, probably 1900-1950. H: 27.5 cm

56. Floating Swan Decoy by R Madison Mitchell (1901-1993), American. Cork, wood and lead, 1955. H: 45.5 cm



Decoys were often made of cork so that they were light for carrying in a sack. Mitchell lived and worked in Havre de Grace, Maryland.



57. Lark Decoy. Probably British, Wood and mirrors, about 1800. H 31.5 cm
Entrusted to Compton Verney by Richard Russell
Used as a hunting aid for luring larks, this would have been pushed into the ground, much like a

potato dibber. The string at the back was wound round the upright, and when pulled would have made the crosspiece spin. The small mirrors would have shone in the light and attracted larks. There are various historical references to larks being used in cooking with recipes such as steak, lark and oyster pie. In Ruth Scurr's recent biography of John Aubrey there is an interesting account of a meal which included larks: "Anno 1643. February. Tonight I watched the King dine in Christ Church... The meal was of mutton and veal (boiled and roasted), capons, hens (with eggs), partridges, pheasants, cocks, larks, beef, mallards, pig, salmon, sea flounder, venison, conies and teales with baked tart and Pippins to follow."

58. Wheelbarrow, British.
Painted wood, 1800s. H: 30 cm



HANGING OVER TABLES

59. Fishmonger's Sign, British.
Painted pine, 1900-1950. H: 42.7 cm

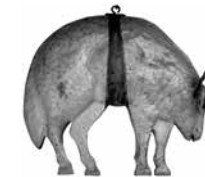


60. Pincers, Trade Sign, British.
Ash, 1900-1950. H: 117 cm

61. Locksmith's Sign (key), British.
Painted wood and zinc, 1800-1900. H: 45 cm



62. Locksmith's Sign (padlock), Northern Europe.
Wood, copper and iron, 1800-1900.
H: 89.5 cm



63. Woollen Draper's or Inn Sign (The Golden Fleece), British. Copper and Gilt, 1850-1900. H: 36.5 cm

64. Flying Goose Decoy, British.
Pine, early 1900s. H: 27.5 cm



65. Gunsmith or Armourer's Shop Sign (shotgun cartridge), British. Metal, after 1900. H: 45.5 cm



66. Gunsmith's Trade Sign (shotgun), French. Tôle peinte (painted metal sheet) and wood, 1800-1900. H: 45.5 cm

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the Compton Verney Handbook is available in the shop or
online at www.comptonverneyshop.org.uk



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